

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

161 Hanmer St. W., Barrie, On L4N 7S1 (705) 721-9528

www.stmargaretbarrie.ca Email: stmarg@rogers.com Fax: (705) 721-9455



Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Incumbent	The Rev. Simon Bell	(416) 570-6898
Honorary Associate	Alex Hewitt	(705) 333-6650
Rector's Warden	Grant Robinson	(705) 726-0147
People's Warden	Peter Beckett	(705) 733-1741
Deputy Rector's Warden	David Paradis	(705) 329-2129
Deputy Rector's Warden	Pauline Cook	(705) 737-0605
Deputy People's Warden	Doug Court	(705) 728-6659
Deputy People's Warden	Laura Johnston	(705) 322-2186
Office Administrator	Colleen Hamann	(705) 728-8761
Treasurer	Joy Packham	(705) 721-4482
Envelope Secretary	Pam Kernen	(705) 733-5286
Sunday School Superintendent	Eileen Cunningham	(705) 715-8468
Lay Associate, Missional	Beth Steffler	(705) 728-1543
Lay Associate, Pastoral	Amy Pauley	(613) 404-3349
Prayer Chain	Gail Jones	(705) 726-4221
Chancel Co-ordinator	Diane MacCormack	(705) 734-2957
Flower Chancel	Sharon Zacchigna	(705) 252-0731
Music Directors	Gayle Haley	(705) 728-3859
	Craig Snider	(705) 722-1117
Custodians	Chanda Farrell	(705) 828-7186
	Dave Flavelle	
Sidesperson Co-ord.	Kevin LeMoine	(705) 252-6528
Audio/Visual	David Paradis	

Wednesday Service

June 30, 2021

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of Haudenosaunee, Anishnaabeg Peoples. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties.

Celebrant: Lord, open our lips,

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Celebrant: O God, make speed to save us.

**People: O Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Quietly accept the message planted in your hearts; it can bring you salvation. James 1.21

VENITE

PSALM 95.1-7

Celebrant: Come, let us sing to the Lord;

People: let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

Celebrant: Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving

People: and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

Celebrant: For the Lord is a great God,

People: and a great king above all gods.

Celebrant: In his hand are the caverns of the earth,

People: and the heights of the hills are his also.

Celebrant: The sea is his for he made it,

People: and his hands have moulded the dry land.

Celebrant: Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,

People: and kneel before the Lord our maker.

Celebrant: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

People: Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

THE PSALMS

Psalm 128

Happy is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways.

You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

Thus, shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD.

The LORD bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE READINGS

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL 12:1-6, 16-25

Samuel said to all Israel, 'I have listened to you in all that you have said to me and have set a king over you. See, it is the king who leads you now; I am old and grey, but my sons are with you. I have led you from my youth until this day. Here I am; testify against me before the LORD and before his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it?

Testify against me and I will restore it to you.' They said, 'You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from the hand of anyone.' He said to them, 'The LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand.' And they said, 'He is witness.' Samuel said to the people, 'The LORD is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your ancestors up out of the land of Egypt.

Now therefore take your stand and see this great thing that the LORD will do before your eyes. Is it not the wheat harvest today? I will call upon the LORD, that he may send thunder and rain; and you shall know and see that the wickedness that you have done in the sight of the LORD is great in demanding a king for yourselves.' So, Samuel called upon the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.

All the people said to Samuel, 'Pray to the LORD your God for your servants, so that we may not die; for we have added to all our sins the evil of demanding a king for ourselves.' And Samuel said to the people, 'Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; and do not turn aside after useless things that cannot profit or save, for they are useless. For the LORD will not cast away his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself.

Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you; and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; for consider what great things he has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.’

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Life in review – faithfulness

Here is Samuel – the Hebrew priest-prophet-judge – coming to the end of his life. He is the key Biblical character that stands at the threshold of change. He is the priest who took over from Eli and his failed sons; he is the key prophet figure who anticipates Elijah and Elisha and the prophetic literature; he is the last judge who appoints the first king Saul. He knows that the people of Israel have got it wrong in choosing a king and knows they will need the prophets to keep everything in check. As he anticipates his own death he anticipates this great moment of transition.

In his own self-evaluation he points out to them that he has spent his entire life being faithful to them - I have led you from my youth until this day - and listened to them. They were the ones who chose to live under a king and he has participated in facilitating that transition. In this last act of reconciliation, he then invites them to bring anything to him where he has taken advantage of them or done them wrong. His stated intention is that if there are any who he has done wrong to then he will seek amends with them, “Testify against me and I will restore it to you.” In this dialogue the people respond to Samuel, “You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from the hand of anyone.”

Why is this important? Because he is deeply aware that the kings they have sought to rule over them will not treat them this way. In future, the kings will take their ox and donkey – the very means of their livelihood – the kings will defraud and oppress them, the king’s hands will take a bribe to look the other way in order to ignore the wrong being done. Even the “good kings”.

We are reminded of the story of the prophet Nathan coming to King David to confront him about the way he engineered the death of his faithful soldier, Uriah, so that his own sexual abuse of Bethsheba would not come to light. Nathan tells him a story of a rich and powerful man who steals a sheep from one of his people. When David is angered by the injustice of it all, Nathan reminds him that it is exactly what he has done.

In essence Samuel sets in motion that great prophetic tradition of the Hebrew Scriptures where the prophet becomes the conscience of the community and brings the rich and powerful to account. It is the seed of our own tradition where we are compelled to speak out about injustice and to be the voice that calls the community to deal with the wrong it has done. When the church fails to exercise that prophetic responsibility, it participates and supports the injustice in its own silence.

The story continues with this interchange between Samuel and the people over God’s judgment against them for the choice they have made by bringing thunder and rain on the very day they are going to harvest their livelihood – the annual wheat crop. They ask Samuel to exercise his priestly role in representing them before God because of their sin. Samuel responds with these words of consolation, “Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; and do not turn aside after useless things that cannot profit or save, for they are useless. For the LORD will not cast away his people, for his great name’s sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself.” In

essence he reminds them of God's faithfulness to them - "the LORD will not cast away his people" – and calls them back to faithfulness.

Life is not about making perfect choices where we fully understand the implications and can control the outcomes. Hardly. Life is messy and complex and sometimes we might choose something that turns out to our detriment. The point is, not that we can wind back time and make an alternative choice that has a happier or more fulfilling ending. The Biblical point is that God continues to be faithful to us irrespective of the choices we make, and God calls us to be faithful in return in spite of the circumstances of life. The measure of our life is not whether we mess up and get it wrong, but rather that we constantly seek to reaffirm our faithfulness to God, because God is faithful to us.

People: **Amen**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Hear, O Israel

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Litany 9 Morning

(Let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy.")

Celebrant: Let us ask the Lord for a day of fulfilment and peace.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Let us ask the Lord to teach us to love others as he has loved us.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Let us ask the Lord for peace and justice in the world.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Let us ask the Lord to strengthen and relieve those who are in need.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Let us ask the Lord to renew the Church through the power of his life-giving Spirit.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

People: **Amen.**

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love fulfils the law. May we love you with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength, and may we love our neighbour as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Second Collect, for Peace.

GOD, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Third Collect, for Grace.

LORD our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of them that depart hence in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful are in joy and felicity: We praise and magnify thy holy Name for all thy servants who have finished their course and kept the faith; and committing our brother Jerry to thy gracious keeping, we pray that we with him, and with all those that are departed in the true faith of thy holy Name, may have our perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in thy eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

People: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

DISMISSAL:

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

NOTICES: Special Vestry – Sunday the 18th of July at 11:00 – in-church and on Zoom to vote of the audited statements.

Memorial doves rescheduling it for Sunday the 11th of June following the 10:00 a.m. service. We will gather in the garden at 11:00 for a short service of remembrance and we will add to the ashes the ashes from the doves we put up in the windows to remember those who died from Covid 19 in Simcoe-Muskoka through this pandemic.

Diocesan Council has approved us receiving 80% of the income received from the sale of St Giles and we will receive \$2.3 million for the construction of Phase Two / the St Giles Ministry Centre. We will need to raise a further \$0.5million.

BLESSING:

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

People: Amen.

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Assisting Rev. Simon today:

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Simon Bell
Video: Simon Bell/David Paradis

This morning in our worship we remember in our prayers those of our family and friends who have immediate needs and concerns:

Doreen; The Wade Family; Alan Proudlove; Anthony Sacco; Sally Rees & her mom; Michelle Sinclair, Mom and Family; Livia & Neil Purcell; Jane & Ron Lewis; Adesh; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Cecilia Mowat; Tanya Bowskill; Sheri Scott; Audrey Moody; Wally Raymond; Christine; Kim; AJ; Dorothy & Chuck; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wendy; Adara; Jean Glionna; Brenda Jessem; Shirley; Lynda Raye; Kilravey; Rhonda; Sherrie O.; Jane Tutty; Tanya North; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Theresa & Pete; Jaxon Croft; Sean; Sophia L; Amanda Stewart; Kathryn

The names below are people in need of ongoing prayers for various reasons so we ask you to please continue to pray for them and their continuing need of God's healing touch and grace:

Kevin Hamann; Laura Johnston; Marilyn Foley; Kadeem Broomes; Diane M.; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Lorraine W; Stephanie; Fr. Murray; Marg Abbott; Jordan; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Donna Wilson; Garn Mennell; Gordon Kennedy; Paul & Rose McIntyre; Jim Tomkins; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Martin & Stephen Bertelsen; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Diocese of Cuernavaca (Mexico)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Council of General Synod